

# LPS/PHILOS 120; Asian Am 150

## Asian American Philosophy

Summer Session 1, 2022

### Instructor Information

#### Instructor

Jingyi Wu  
Jingyi.Wu@uci.edu

#### Class Time & Locations

M/W 1:00-3:50 PM  
HH 254

#### Office Hours & Location

4-5 PM, Wednesdays, outdoor  
study/meeting space outside of  
Humanities Hall;  
or by appointment on Zoom

### General Information

#### Description

We will engage with philosophical works that explore the ramifications of U.S. imperialism in Asian, Asian American, and Asian diasporic communities. This course has three main themes:

- (1) we will think about what Asian American philosophy is and what it could be, by drawing inspirations from Asian Americans' lived experiences, Asian American histories, Africana Philosophy, Latinx Philosophy, and philosophy of race;
- (2) we will discuss several topics in Asian American Philosophy: citizenship, racial identities, model minority, racial fetishes, parental expectations, food and nostalgia, intersectional identities, etc.;
- (3) we will engage with the lived experiences of philosophers of Asian descent in light of the first two themes.

During the course, students will learn to effectively read, critique, and evaluate philosophical texts, with an enriched understanding of this new subfield of philosophy.

No prerequisites expected or needed. Students from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome.

#### Reading

All materials will be posted on Canvas or available via the syllabus. You are expected to complete all **assigned readings and materials** before each class.

### Assessment

#### Default Scheme:

The default assessment scheme consists of 6 components: Reverse Outline (15%), Four-sentence Philosophy Essay (15%), Presentation/Discussion Lead (15%), Discussion Questions (2% x 10 = 20%), Short Paper (25%), Participation (10%).

#### Reverse Outline (15% of total grade)

Reverse outlining is a great skill to have when reading academic papers. You will first watch a short video from me (available on Canvas starting Week 1) on how the process of reverse outline works. You will then choose a course reading (regardless of whether we have covered it so far), identify a section from the reading of 3-4

pages, annotate on the margins of the section and produce an outline according to the reverse outline method. Submit a scan or PDF of your work on Canvas no later than **5:00 PM, Friday, July 1, 2022**.

You are encouraged to use the reverse outline method when you read course materials throughout, but only the document you submit will be graded.

### Four-sentence Philosophy Essay (15% of total grade)

This four-sentence philosophy essay exercise is aimed at cultivating your critical reasoning skills. To complete it, first pick a course reading or a section of a course reading (it **can** be the same as the one you choose for reverse outline), your goal is to (1) identify the main argument that the author defends; (2) respond to the author's main argument by articulating your position in the debate; (3) anticipate a possible objection to your position; (4) respond to the possible objection.

If you have trouble structuring the four sentences, you can follow the following template:

- (1) [The author] says \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) I say \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) One might object that \_\_\_\_\_.
- (4) I reply that \_\_\_\_\_.

There is no word limit for this writing assignment, but your essay cannot exceed 4 sentences.

A short video from me on how a four-sentence philosophy essay works will be available on Canvas starting Week 2. Submit your essay on Canvas no later than **5:00 PM, Friday, July 8, 2022**.

### Presentation/Discussion Lead (15% of total grade)

Choose a course material to present on and lead the class discussion for that session. The total discussion time for a course material is 1 hour. I recommend spending 5-10 minutes summarizing the argument of the paper (reverse outlining is a great way to prepare for this), then suggest a few questions to start the discussion. Make sure to incorporate your classmates' discussion questions on Canvas (see below). The course material you choose can be (but does not have to be) the same as either your reverse outline course reading, or your four-sentence philosophy essay course reading, but not both.

A short video from me on some presentation skills will be available on Canvas starting Week 1.

### Discussion Questions (2% x 10 = 20% of total grade)

**By 5:00 PM on the day before each class** (Sundays at 5:00 PM for Monday classes, and Tuesday at 5:00 PM for Wednesday classes), you can choose to submit **at least one** discussion question on Canvas on each assigned course material. Questions for each course material is worth 2% of your grade (graded by completion). There is a maximum of 20% of total grade for discussion questions. You need to ask questions on at least 10 pieces of course materials to receive the full 20%. If you ask more than one question for an assigned material, you will still receive 2% for that. For reference, there are 17 pieces of assigned course materials in total.

I encourage you to ask two kinds of questions: (1) clarificatory questions, e.g. "When the author uses the term X, what does it mean? I interpreted it this way, but I'm not sure because of Y and Z."; (2) puzzles, e.g. "On P12 the author argues X, but elsewhere on P5 they seem to argue Y. How does one reconcile that?" or "In this paper the author A argues X, but in another reading author B argues Y. Who's right?"

### Short Paper (3-4 pages, 12pt font, double spaced) (25% of total grade)

Your final project will be a 3-4 page paper on a paper that is **cited** in one of our course readings. Think of this assignment as a combination (and longer version) of the reverse outline assignment and the four-sentence philosophical essay assignment, plus an independent research component. I recommend spending 1 page

summarizing the argument of the paper, 1.5 page on your response and evaluation of the argument, and 1 page on how one might reply to your response and evaluation.

A short video from me on how to find academic papers online via the UCI library and other preprint services will be available on Canvas starting Week 3.

You are encouraged to submit a draft of your short paper to me for feedback, before submitting a final version. If you choose this option, please submit a draft paper on Canvas **by 5:00 PM, Monday, July 18, 2022**.

The final version of the short paper is due on Canvas **by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, July 26, 2022**.

### Participation (10% of total grade)

Attendance and active participation are important in this seminar-styled class. The class succeeds only if you all actively participate. I recognize that active participation can come in multiple ways (verbal participation in class, email communications with the instructor and guests, diligent and critical reading, community service, etc.), many of which may be invisible to me. Therefore, at the end of the class, I will invite you all to grade yourself on participation, along with a <100 words rationale. If I agree with your reasoning, I will give you this grade.

### Alternative Scheme:

To facilitate individualized learning, you have the option of substituting one or two components of the default scheme with a creative project, including but not limited to, zines, blog posts, podcast episodes, paintings, drawings, crochet art, music, dance, sculpture, maps, walking tours, poetry, memoir, creative writing, lesson plans for teach ins, etc. Typically, you will substitute the short paper component with a creative project of comparable length and effort. But you can also further substitute the presentation/discussion lead component with a presentation of your creative project.

If you want to choose this option, please get in touch with me by **5:00 PM on Wednesday July 6, 2022** for approval.

### Extra Credit:

A 2% extra credit will be provided if you attend an event offered by an Asian and Asian American focused local organization and submit a 1-page reflection. I will provide a list of events I am aware of, but feel free to attend events unbeknownst to me. You can submit your reflection **by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, July 26, 2022**.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Course Materials (Complete before class)	Selected In-Class Activities	Philosophical Skills Resources on Canvas
<b>Theme: What is Asian American Philosophy</b>					
<b>Week 1</b>	June 22 Wed	The Syllabus Asian American Histories	None	PBS, <i>Asian Americans</i> , Episode 2: A Question of Loyalty  Oluo, "What if I talk about race wrong"	Reverse outline skills video available; Presentation skills video available.

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Course Materials (Complete before class)	Selected In-Class Activities	Philosophical Skills Resources on Canvas
<b>Week 2</b>	June 27 Mon	Asian American Experience “World”-Traveling	> Hong, “United,” in <i>Minor Feelings</i> > Logunes, “Playfulness, ‘World’-Travelling, and Loving Perception” > (Optional: <a href="#">Between Two Worlds</a> , <i>Hidden Brain</i> Podcast)		Four-sentence philosophy essay video available.
	June 29 Wed	White Ignorance Elite Capture  <b>Reverse Outline due Friday 5:00 PM</b>	> Mills, “White Ignorance” > Taiwo, “ <a href="#">Identity Politics and Elite Capture</a> ” > (Optional: Hong, “The End of White Innocence,” in <i>Minor Feelings</i> )		
<b>Week 3</b>	July 6 Wed	Asian American Philosophy Color Blindness  <b>Four-sentence philosophy essay due Friday 5:00 PM</b>	> Kim, “What is Asian American Philosophy” > Sundstrom, “Color Blindness and the Browning of America,” in <i>The Browning of America and the Evasion of Social Justice</i>		How to find academic papers online video available.
<b>Theme: Topics in Asian American Philosophy</b>					
<b>Week 4</b>	July 11 Mon	Racial Identities Black-white binary Intersectional Identities	> Sundstrom, “The Black-White Binary as Racial Anxiety and Demand for Justice,” in <i>The Browning of America and the Evasion of Social Justice</i> > Lee, “The Ambiguous Practices of the Inauthentic Asian American Woman”		
	July 13 Wed	Racial Fetishes Philosophy of Sex and Love	> Zheng, “Why Yellow Fever Isn’t Flattering” > Srinivasan, “The Right to Sex” in <i>The Right to Sex</i>	Online class visit by Dr. Robin Zheng at 1:00 PM	
<b>Week 5</b>	July 18 Mon	Asian Americans and Archival Science  <b>(Optional) Draft Short Paper due Monday 5:00 PM</b>	> Anderson, “Uses of Value Judgments in Science” > Fujita-Rony, ““Destructive Force”” > Bui, “Archival Others” in <i>Returns of War</i>		

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Course Materials (Complete before class)	Selected In-Class Activities	Philosophical Skills Resources on Canvas
	July 20 Wed	Parental Expectations Food and Nostalgia	> Basu, “The Ethics of Expectations” > Liao, “Bittersweet Food”	Online class visit by Dr. Shen-yi Liao at 3:00 PM; (Tentative) Online or in-person class visit by Dr. Rima Basu.	

---

**Theme: Asians and Asian Americans in Philosophy**

---

<b>Week 6</b>	July 25 Mon	Asian Americans and Philosophy Microaggressions	> Select <b>three entries</b> from “What is it like to be a philosopher of Asian descent?” <i>APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies</i>		
		<b>Final Short Paper due Tuesday 5:00 PM</b>	> Fatima, “On the Edge of Knowing”		
		<b>(Optional) Extra Credit due Tuesday 5:00 PM</b>	> (Optional: Lee, “Asian Americans, Positive Stereotyping, and Philosophy”)		

---

## **Accessibility, Accommodation, and Disability Services**

### **Disability Service Center**

Contact the Disability Services Center (DSC) to make appropriate arrangements if you request disability accommodation. I recommend contacting the DSC by the end of Week 1. DSC can be reached by phone at 949-824-7494 and by email at [dsc@uci.edu](mailto:dsc@uci.edu) 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday-Friday.

### **Reading Accessibility**

People read in a variety of styles, and one style may suit you better than another. I encourage you to try different ways to read throughout this course, e.g. read on a computer, text-to-speech, read on paper, read on tablets, and a combination of these. To that end, whenever possible, all reading materials have OCR enabled, so using text-to-speech would not be a problem. I recommend the “Read Aloud” Chrome extension for reading PDFs using text-to-speech. Microsoft Word similarly has a text-to-speech function called Read Aloud.

### **COVID-19 and Extension Policy**

We are still in the middle of a pandemic. If you feel unwell, don’t come to class. I would appreciate it if you let me know beforehand, so we may be able to arrange hybrid meetings for you to attend from home.

Life happens. If things come up that would impact your performance in the class, let me know as soon as you can. You don’t have to tell me what happened or provide proof. We will work something out.

---

Last updated: June 23, 2022

---